

Serial No. 10/789,885 to Potter
Art Unit: 3711
Page 8

REMARKS

Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested. Claims 2, 5, 19, and 20 have been amended. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow.

1. Examiner Interview

The applicant thanks the Examiner for the helpful telephone interview, which was held on November 22, 2004. In the interview the Examiner indicated that in the Notice of Allowance, she would state that both the recited structure, i.e., a screw and wing nut combination, and the equivalents thereof would be included in what was not taught by the prior art, when affixed in the manner claimed with the other recited features.

2. Amendments to the Specification

The abstract has been amended to conform with the 150-word limit.

3. Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to claims 2 and 5 due to the inclusion of "the line 2-2" in claim 2 and "line 2-2" in claim 5. Claims 2 and 5 have been amended to replace the reference to line 2-2 with a "line dividing the device along its length." These amendments in no way are believed to narrow the scope of the claims and are for

MAD/101712.1

Serial No. 10/789,885 to Potter
Art Unit: 3711
Page 9

clarification purposes only. In light of the amendments and the foregoing arguments, withdrawal of this objection is requested.

4. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2

Claims 19-20 stand rejected under § 112, ¶2 as being indefinite. Per the Examiner's suggestion, claims 19-20 have been amended to recite a device. These claims are now believed to be definite and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

5. Allowed Claims and Allowable Claims

The applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 1, 3, 4, 7, and 12-18 are allowed, that claims 2, 5, 6, and 8-11 would be allowed if rewritten to overcome the objection to these claims, and that claims 19-20 would be allowed if rewritten to overcome the rejection of these claims. All objections and rejections are believed to be overcome.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that original claims 1-20 are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and each define patentable subject matter. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

No fee is believed to be payable with this communication. Nevertheless, should the Examiner consider any other fees to be payable in conjunction with this or any future

MAD/101712.1

Serial No. 10/789,885 to Potter
Art Unit: 3711
Page 10

communication, the Director is authorized to direct payment of such fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-2053.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it would help expedite matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Eberle
Mary E. Eberle
Registration No. 43,599

Dated: 12-02-04

WHYTE HIRSCHBOECK DUDEK S.C.
555 E. Wells St., Suite 1900
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3819
Telephone: (608) 255-4440
Facsimile: (608) 258-7138

MAD/101712.1